

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

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**MAN SENT TO JAIL FOR ROLE IN VIOLENT BROCKTON
BREAKING AND ENTERING**

BROCKTON – A former West Barnstable man has been sent to jail for his role in a violent breaking and entering where an elderly woman was bound and beaten, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

Last Friday a Plymouth County jury deliberated for about two and a half hours before finding Brendan M. O'Brien (DOB: 2/28/79), guilty of one count each of Breaking and Entering in the Daytime, Person in Fear and Larceny over \$250 from a person over 60 years old. The jury found O'Brien not guilty of Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Kidnapping and Armed Assault with intent to Rob charges.

Today, Brockton Superior Court Judge C.J. Moriarty sentenced O'Brien to serve one year in the House of Correction on the Breaking and Entering charge and two years of probation once released. As conditions of his probation, O'Brien must remain-drug free and undergo screens. He will have to stay away from the victim and was ordered to pay her restitution. The Commonwealth had recommended 3-5 years in State Prison.

"An elderly woman was brutalized in her own home over some jewelry and a handful of cash and pills," DA Cruz said. "At trial, the jury heard evidence that this was a heroin-fueled crime spree. Drug addiction has many victims and I am hopeful this verdict and sentence will help this victim move on."

On September 26, 2012, O'Brien was arrested for motor vehicle offenses in Plymouth. As part of their investigation, police linked the items located in O'Brien's car at the time of his Plymouth arrest to the items stolen from the safe during the violent attack.

One week earlier, O'Brien and another man, Luis Robles (DOB:05/29/69) concocted a scheme to force their way into a 68-year-old woman's apartment by breaking the screen when they knew she was home alone. The victim was pushed into her bedroom and Robles demanded

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that she open a safe in her bedroom which contained medications, some cash, jewelry, coins and other important items. When the victim refused, Robles removed a wooden dowel that was being used to prop open a window and hit the victim several times in the head. Robles then tied the victim to a chair with rope while the victim begged him to stop and told him she suffered from a heart condition. While inside the apartment, Robles received at least two phone calls that the Commonwealth argued the phone records proved were O'Brien. Robles left with the entire safe.

The victim reported that she was tied up for three hours before her neighbor heard her calls for help and notified Brockton Police.

The jury heard testimony that in the hours after the attack, Robles and O'Brien showed up at the home of O'Brien's ex-girlfriend in Avon where they divided up the items that had been stolen. O'Brien told his ex that they had just "pulled a heist" and described how he planned the attack and sent Robles in to take the safe. O'Brien and the victim had mutual friends and knew each other prior to this incident.

Luis D. Robles (DOB:05/29/1969) was also charged with Armed Assault with Intent to Rob a victim 60 years or older, Kidnapping, Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon on a Victim 60 years or older, Breaking and Entering in the Daytime, Person in Fear and Larceny over \$250 on a victim 60 years or older. He plead guilty to those charges on February 6, 2013 and is serving a 4 ½ to 7 year sentence in State Prison with probation for three years once his prison sentence is complete.

Assistant District Attorneys Jessica Kenny and Shanan Buckingham prosecuted the case, which was investigated by Brockton Police.

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